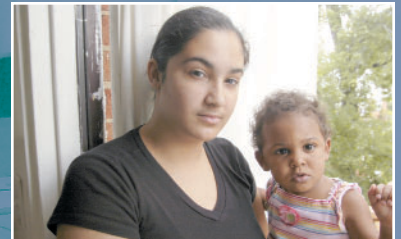


CDBG

July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

Montgomery County's
Community
Development
Block Grant
Program

*A Building Block
to Healthy Communities*





OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20850

Douglas M. Duncan
County Executive

Dear Montgomery County Residents:

For 32 years, Montgomery County has received federal funding through the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Supporting revitalization of neighborhoods, economic development, and providing improved community facilities and services, CDBG helps local governments address critical needs in their communities. In Fiscal Year 2006, Montgomery County received a federal CDBG allocation of \$5,891,237 and generated an additional \$1,100,000 in program income available to spend on eligible activities.

With input from County residents, the Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) administers CDBG funds to address local needs and serve our community's most vulnerable residents. This ability to determine funding priorities locally and respond flexibly is a hallmark of the CDBG program. In the past year, the County was able to respond to many critical needs of low-income residents and was also able to be a part of the national response in supporting Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

This report details some of our CDBG-funded accomplishments and the breadth and variety of services provided through this important national program. In this report you will learn about the South Silver Spring Pedestrian Linkages program, a 2006 National Association of Counties Achievement Award winner, housing rehabilitation loans to assist low-income homeowners, and a host of services delivered by nonprofit organizations including afterschool youth activities, prescription drug support for low-income, uninsured individuals, and citizenship classes for immigrants. In other words, this report provides information about the needs in our community and services that can benefit you or your neighbors. You may even learn about a nonprofit organization that can benefit from your volunteer time, in-kind donations or financial resources.

In a time of decreasing federal funding, Montgomery County is proud of its long history in using CDBG resources to address our community's most pressing needs.

Sincerely,

Douglas M. Duncan
County Executive

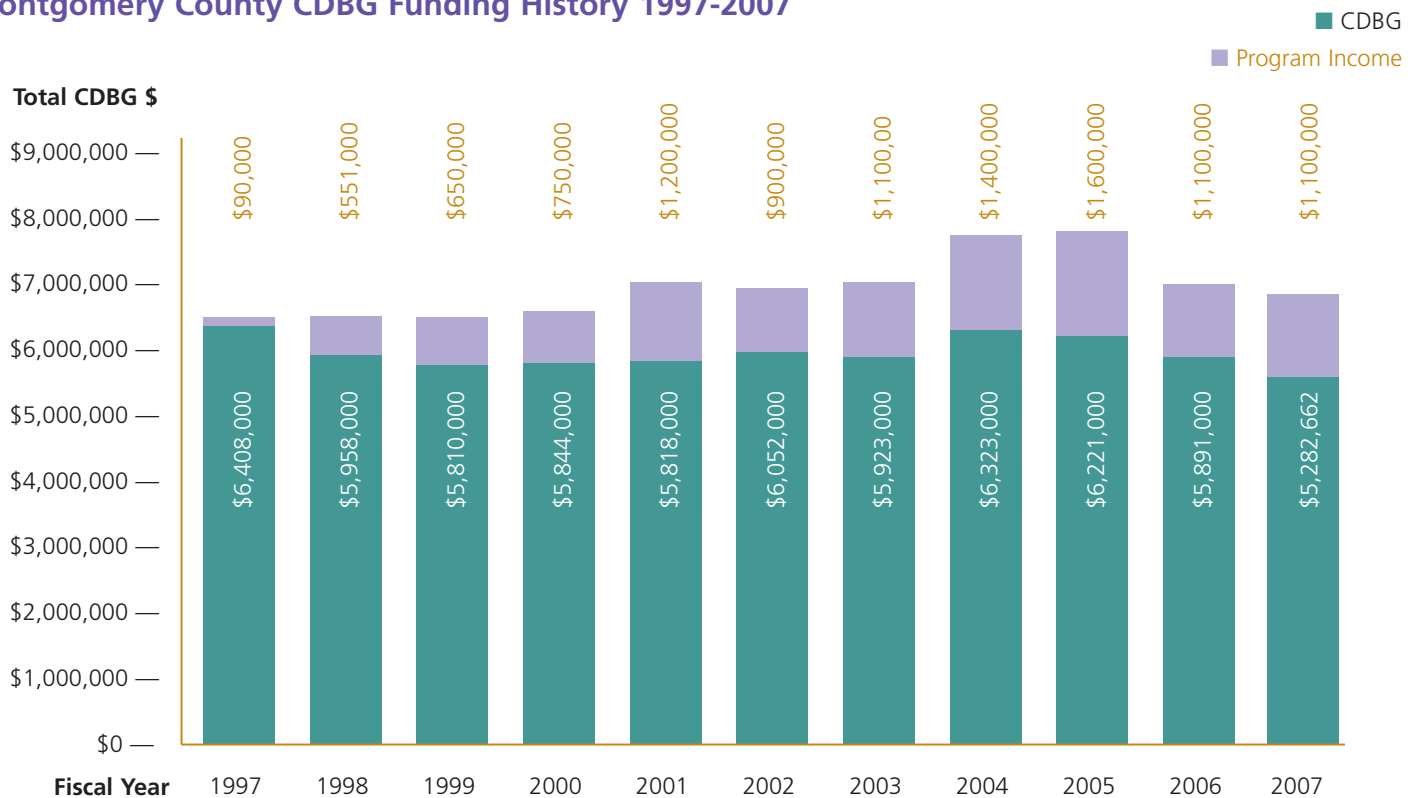
Background

First implemented in 1974, the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program provides annual grants to eligible cities and counties to fund a wide variety of programs, with priority placed on initiatives that benefit low- and moderate-income residents. Montgomery County is given wide latitude in selecting programs that fit within broad federal guidelines to meet locally determined community development needs.

This report provides an overview of Montgomery County's CDBG program for FY 2006 (July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006). In FY 2006, the County received a federal allocation of \$5,891,237 in CDBG funds. Additionally, repayment of CDBG-funded loans (primarily for housing rehabilitation) generated \$1,100,000 in "program income" also available to spend on eligible activities. The Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA) directly administers CDBG-funded programs supporting commercial revitalization, business assistance, affordable housing. CDBG funds are also provided annually for locally-directed initiatives to the Cities of Takoma Park and Rockville. Based on recommendations from a citizens' advisory committee, up to 15% of Montgomery County's CDBG funds are awarded annually to Nonprofit Partners that provide direct services to eligible residents. The County's annual CDBG allocation also supports DHCA staff in administering this complex program and ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements related to environmental protection, wage rates, contracting, citizen participation, performance measurement, auditing, federal reporting and financial management.

CDBG funding to the Montgomery County reached a high in 1997. Since then, the County's allocation has dropped by approximately 17.6%. Unfortunately, further reductions are likely. Last year, the President proposed the elimination of the CDBG program entirely, a plan that was strongly opposed at the state and local levels and ultimately rejected by Congress. This year, the administration is proposing a change in the formula for allocating CDBG funding that, if adopted, is likely to further reduce Montgomery County's allocation.

Montgomery County CDBG Funding History 1997-2007

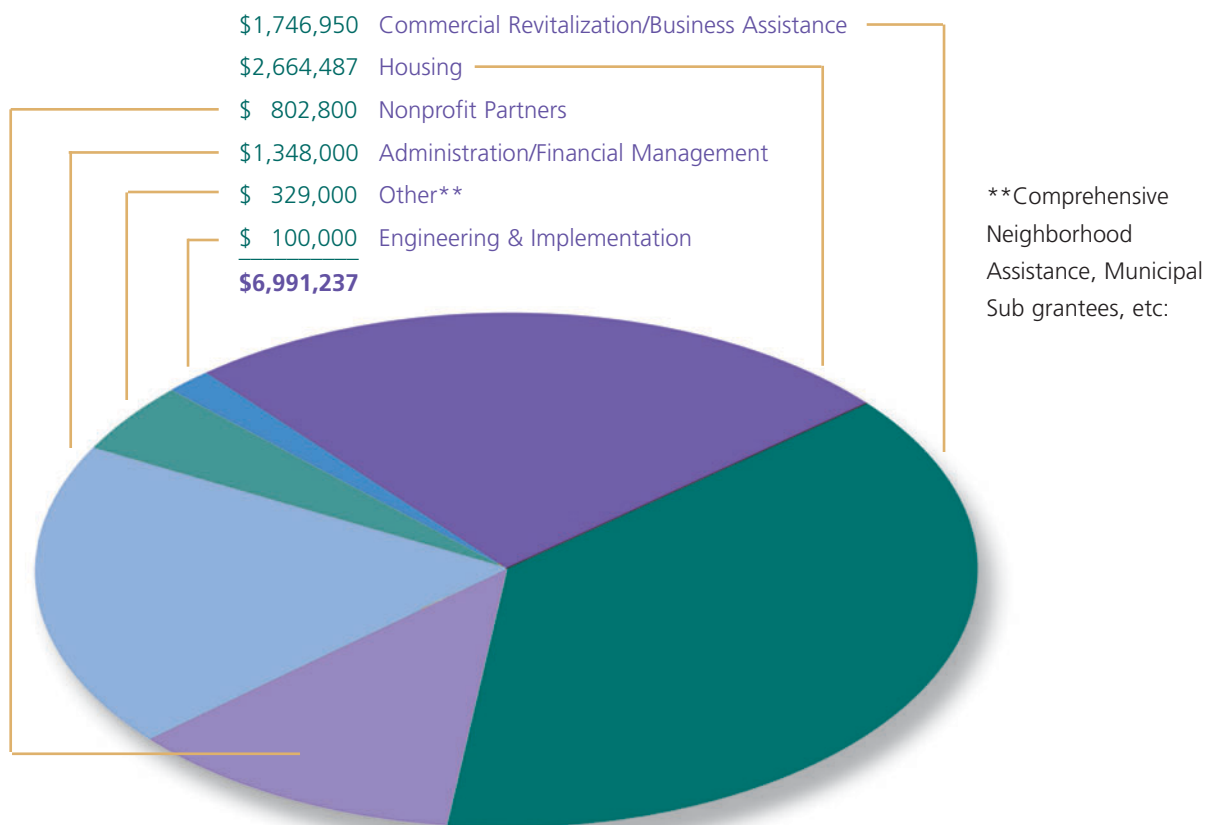


*In 2004, the City of Gaithersburg became eligible to receive federal CDBG funds directly.

CDBG-Funded Projects and Programs

CDBG funds are used to leverage additional public and private funding and must be directed to support projects and programs benefiting low- and moderate-income residents.

Montgomery County CDBG FY2006 Funding by Program



FY 2006 Income Eligibility Limits

Family Size	
1	\$40,600
2	\$46,400
3	\$52,200
4	\$58,000
5	\$62,650
6	\$67,300
7	\$71,900
8	\$76,550

Persons whose incomes fall below these limits by household size are potentially eligible for CDBG funded public services. However, the majority of those assisted have substantially lower incomes than those listed above. Income limits are updated annually by HUD.

Hurricane Katrina Relief Efforts

*M*ontgomery County was quick to respond as part of a national relief effort to assist disaster victims of Hurricane Katrina. With an outpouring of support, residents of the County pitched in to donate time and money to help those in need. Montgomery County government, under the leadership of the County Executive, sent rescue and public safety personnel to the scene and offered assistance to those displaced by the hurricane in relocating, either temporarily or permanently, to Montgomery County.



Wide spread flooding made large areas of New Orleans uninhabitable

The Department of Housing and Community Affairs used CDBG monies to assist in housing Hurricane Katrina evacuees. Although many of the evacuees in Montgomery County were drawn to this area because of family and friends, the slow progress of rebuilding the affected areas and the drawn out nature of the recovery process taxed these personal support networks. Under special waivers obtained from HUD, CDBG funds were used to cover security deposits, utility hook-up fees, and to provide up to two months rental assistance to eligible households relocating to Montgomery County.

Approximately \$215,000 in CDBG monies provided housing assistance for some 67 families. The CDBG program provides the flexibility to address unanticipated emergencies.



High winds toppled utility poles leaving neighborhoods without electricity.



Winds damaged many homes beyond repair.



Fires, which commonly occurred after the hurricane, left apartment dwellers homeless.



Montgomery County Fire and Rescue staff join efforts to stabilize New Orleans and help get firefighting infrastructure back in place.

Commercial Revitalization/Business Assistance

*M*ontgomery County is committed to preserving and improving older business communities by working in partnership with owners and area residents to ensure that commercial areas are vibrant and appealing. CDBG funds are a critical source of financing for the County's Commercial Revitalization Program, which provides technical assistance, financing, architectural services, commercial area streetscaping and other capital improvement projects. This past year, CDBG-funded projects have been implemented in parts of downtown Silver Spring and in the adjacent Long Branch community.



South Silver Spring

Downtown Silver Spring has rebounded from its past decline and is continuing to attract new residents and enjoy expanded business opportunities. CDBG funds have served as a catalyst for this economic transformation. CDBG funds support the multi-phase **South Silver Spring Pedestrian Linkages** program, recently awarded a 2006 National Association of Counties Achievement Award. A comprehensive eight-part pedestrian linkages system is being developed through public-private partnerships to make it easy, safe and more enjoyable to walk from one point to another, transforming this former industrial area into a thriving new urban neighborhood. **Arts Alley @ Blair Mill**, the first phase of the project, turned a dark, unattractive service alley into a lively arts-oriented destination place and pathway to retail, restaurants, residences and offices. The chic Gallery Restaurant serves American style dishes with enhanced flavors from the Caribbean, Central and South America while Mayorga Coffee Roasters and Moorenko's ice cream parlor have become community gathering places. The next link is currently being planned between Eastern Avenue and Kennett Street. Three segments of the pedestrian linkages are being constructed as part of private residential and office developments.

CDBG funding helped elevate this bleak service alley to an inviting pathway and arts destination.



Fenton Street Village

Building on the success of downtown Silver Spring redevelopment and the South Silver Spring pedestrian linkages project, the County used CDBG funding to address the needs of existing business owners and achieve the vision of a larger inter-connected downtown area. This past year CDBG funding supported Fenton Street Village Revitalization streetscaping improvements for both Thayer Avenue and Bonifant Street between Fenton Street and Georgia Avenue.



DHCA staff worked closely with existing businesses to minimize disruption during construction.

Creating attractive streetscape in Fenton Street Village will benefit existing businesses and encourage the movement of people throughout the whole downtown Silver Spring area.



CDBG funds often spur additional investment in a revitalization project, leveraging additional local and private funding and resources.

In January 2006, the Department of Housing and Community Affairs hosted an intensive one-day **Design Charrette for Mayor Lane** to develop a buildable vision for a shared vehicular and pedestrian connection along Mayor Lane to better link public parking facilities to the businesses on Georgia Avenue and Fenton Street. Local residents, business and property owners, public utility employees, architectural engineering consultants, and County government representatives exchanged ideas, identified and analyzed issues, and began generating a design concept that addressed pedestrian and vehicular access, dumpster locations, business needs, lighting, safety and signage.



DHCA Project Manager Rogers Stanley observed: "The insightful and creative design concepts that grew out of feedback from key community stakeholders have allowed us to move forward with specific recommendations for the project."

The picture of Mayor Lane as it is today and the rendering that resulted from the Design Charrette demonstrate how input from key stakeholders helps create a common vision for the project.



Long Branch

CDBG funding is supporting capital improvements growing from a comprehensive community-led planning process for the revitalization of **Long Branch**, one of the County's most diverse and unique communities located near downtown Silver Spring and Takoma Park. CDBG funding will support the establishment of a more vital and cohesive community core with streetscaping along Arliss Street, safe pedestrian crossings at intersections, and wayfinding signage. The centerpiece of the pedestrian circulation system will be an ADA-accessible walkway bridge connecting Long Branch's two major public facilities, the Community Center and the Library, and incorporating and preserving the natural beauty of the Long Branch Stream Valley. In FY2006 CDBG funds supported the development of **uniform streetscaping standards** to give the Long Branch neighborhood a distinct and unifying look. These new standards provide a design model for sidewalk detail and dimensions, mulched tree pits, lighting and trash receptacles.

The walkway bridge will be re-designed to accommodate persons with mobility impairments.



City of Takoma Park

CDBG funding supported **Street Enhancement Projects** by the City of Takoma Park. Work primarily on Oswego Avenue included installing accessible ramps, curbs, gutters and improvements to enhance pedestrian safety. Among other activities, CDBG funding through the City of Takoma Park also supports **Collaborative Supervision and Focused Enforcement** (C-SAFE), a tri-jurisdictional community-based crime prevention coordinating crime prevention efforts within and across jurisdictions.

Housing

The cost of housing in Montgomery County has increased dramatically over the last five years, and the affordability gap has widened as wage increases have not kept pace with escalating housing costs. From the fourth quarter of 2004 to the first quarter of 2006, the median single family home price in Montgomery County rose from \$405,435 to \$494,404, an increase of 22%.¹ The median price for a newly-built detached single-family home in the first quarter of 2006 was \$731,190² while the average rent for a two bedroom unit was \$1,267.³ From July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006, \$3,211,554, or 49% of the CDBG monies disbursed by the County, were used to preserve and expand affordable housing.



Single Family Rehabilitation

CDBG funds rehabilitation efforts for low-income home owners through the County's Single Family Home Improvement Loan Program and the City of Rockville's Home Improvement Program. In a period of rising fuel cost and property taxes, these funds are critical in eliminating serious code violations and upgrading properties for households of limited financial means. Eligible repairs include window and roof replacement, electrical upgrades, weatherization, furnace replacements and accessibility adaptations such as wheelchair ramps, among other things. Staff conducts technical evaluations and inspections of properties, generates scopes of work, and assists the owners throughout the bidding and construction phases of projects. In both programs funds are loaned at a low interest rate based on a family's income and ability to make repayments. The City of Rockville offers deferred payment loans for households with low annual incomes. In the past year, the programs invested \$1,149,091 to renovate 38 single family homes owned by low- or moderate-income households.

In the Spring of 2006, local homeowner Eileen King participated in the City of Rockville's Home Improvement Program. Mrs. King, a hale 80 year old, originally purchased her home with her husband Henry in 1964. With two young sons and a new set of twins, the Kings moved to the Hungerford subdivision of Rockville to accommodate their growing family. Despite the heart-wrenching challenges of losing her husband to a three year battle with cancer when her children were young and supporting the family as a school health room technician, Mrs. King recalls the joys of living in her neighborhood: "It was a wonderful place to raise children. There were 37 children on this cul de sac alone. The children rode their bikes to the park and walked home each day for lunch from school. Rockville is still the safest place to live."

Now retired and living on a fixed income, Mrs. King learned about the Home Improvement Program through Rockville staff, who told her that she qualified to have work done on her house. Grateful for the program's contractor screening process and comprehensive technical assistance, Mrs. King remarked: "Everyone who came here to work was just as nice as they could be. And the City of Rockville staff was very thorough and careful to make sure everything was done right." Window replacement, electrical work and kitchen modernization rectified code deficiencies, enhanced energy efficiency and provided enhanced utility, improving Mrs. King's quality of life, especially when her four children and seven grandchildren visit.



Work completed on this Rockville home demonstrates the impact of CDBG funding on the ability of low- to moderate-income families to maintain and protect their most important investment.



Group Home Rehabilitation

CDBG funds are also used to provide and improve safe and supportive group homes for persons with disabilities, victims of domestic violence and other vulnerable County residents. In FY2006, \$931,588 CDBG dollars have been used to renovate 21 homes. **Jubilee Association of Maryland**, an organization that provides opportunities and support for individuals with developmental disabilities, received \$136,500 to make comprehensive repairs to three group homes. Work on the homes included electrical work, new gutters, roof and hot water heater replacements, and accessibility modifications. These improvements supported Jubilee's goal of providing "a place for relaxation and growth, where people can follow their own routines and learn skills and responsibility in a natural environment."

Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless, representing a broad-based group of agencies and residents focused on ending homelessness, also received CDBG funding in the amount of \$156,708 to make needed repairs to two homes used as transitional housing to provide a safe haven for homeless women with serious mental illness who are at-risk of victimization, harm or abuse without supportive housing. CDBG funds were used to replace roofs, upgrade major systems, replace and repair windows and siding to improve energy efficiency and reduce ongoing operating costs and to make necessary accessibility modifications, including the installation of a ramp.



Nonprofit Partners

FY 2006 Nonprofit Partners Total 802,800



Montgomery County uses an annual application review process to select nonprofit organizations (Nonprofit Partners) to receive up to 15% of its CDBG allocation. In FY2006, 36 nonprofit organizations were awarded grants totaling \$802,800. The cities of Rockville and Takoma Park also received CDBG funds through the County for Nonprofit Partners working in their jurisdictions.

A Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) appointed by the County Executive reviews competing Nonprofit Partner grant applications on an annual cycle. The CDAC seeks projects that:

- Are extremely beneficial to low- and moderate-income residents;
- Link affordable housing with essential supportive services;
- Create housing stability for special-needs populations;
- Have a detailed plan for permanent funding;
- Maximize the use of private sector funding;
- Have a clearly defined scope, reasonable budget, specific goals and evaluation method; and
- Demonstrate that the applicant has the organizational capacity and track record to manage the grant and meet the program objectives.

Health Care

Montgomery County has a growing number of uninsured residents, as the cost of health care continues to rise.⁴ The County recognizes the need for health care delivery that is convenient and that makes diverse residents feel welcome, understood and safe. As a result, the County provided FY 2006 CDBG funds to Nonprofit Partners to deliver services to low-income residents with special needs, including language and cultural barriers and homelessness.

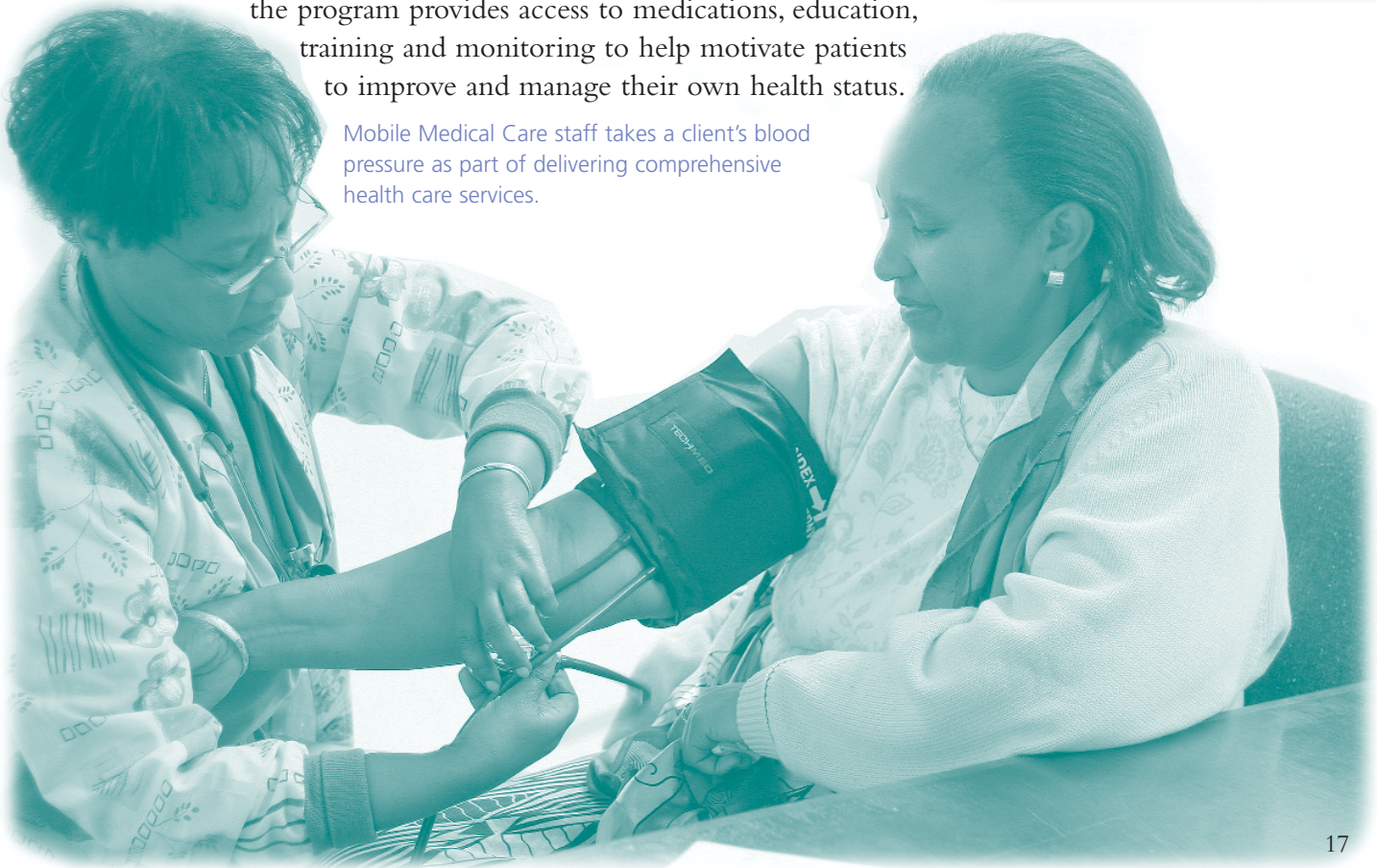
Augmenting health care resources available through County agencies, **Ministries United Silver Spring/Takoma Park, Inc.** (MUSST) received CDBG funding to serve over 120 low-income, uninsured individuals living in several Silver Spring/Takoma Park zip code areas this year. Also supported by 17 local congregations in the community, MUSST was created as a central place for these local churches and congregations to direct people for emergency financial help. The program provides assistance for medical prescriptions and physical examinations and screenings, services that are often not available through other free providers in the community. The program also helps clients who have difficulty filling out forms for public medical assistance and provides information and translation services regarding medical clinics in the community.

MUSST Program Coordinator Michelle Banks reflects: “The working poor who cannot afford health insurance premiums, those living on fixed incomes, or the uninsured bear a sizeable financial burden if they become ill and are forced to choose between purchasing needed medication or medical service, paying utility bills or paying the rent. Our program lessens health disparities by providing access to physicians and treatment.”

The City of Rockville disbursed CDBG funding to provide health care services to working poor, homeless, uninsured persons through **Mobile Medical Care, Inc.** Intensive and comprehensive health care programs are offered out of two community centers. After an initial screening, examination and diagnosis,

the program provides access to medications, education, training and monitoring to help motivate patients to improve and manage their own health status.

Mobile Medical Care staff takes a client's blood pressure as part of delivering comprehensive health care services.



Youth Development

Many challenges face youth and families in Montgomery County. Poverty for students in Montgomery County Public Schools is on the rise. In the 2005-06 school year, almost 36,000 students, 25.8% of the student population,⁵ received Free and Reduced-Price Meals Service, a nationally accepted indicator of poverty, with some individual schools approaching 90% of their student population receiving FARMS.⁶ The wide diversity in cultures, countries of origin and languages spoken at home among students and their families also challenges the educational system, as it works to close the achievement gap between minority students and their classmates. In addition, the concern about local gang activity and recruitment, which targets even elementary school-aged children, emphasizes the vital need for structured activities for youth during non-school hours – activities supported by CDBG funding.

Passion for Learning (PFL) received CDBG funding to support its comprehensive educational program for "at-risk" Montgomery County public elementary and middle school youth to improve their academic achievement. Serving over 135 youth so far this year, PFL provides tutoring, mentoring and homework help in math and reading comprehension and other educational workshops. The program solicits involvement from the local business community, community organizations and concerned citizens to expand opportunities for youth.



David S. Spence / The Gazette

Students check out one of their "wiggling, jiggling creatures" during the GRRL Tech after-school program sponsored by **Passion for Learning**, Montgomery County Commission for Women, Pepco, and other local groups to develop interest and skills in technology fields where females are underrepresented.



David S. Spence / The Gazette

Students in the Young Writers program read their original poems to the group. **Passion For Learning** brings professional writers to work with students and help them gain skills and confidence as writers.

CDBG funding to the **Long Branch Athletic Association** (LBAA) has supported a structured, supervised athletic program for youth during out-of school hours. To address the needs of families, a bilingual counselor performs outreach to students and parents, solicits parent participation and makes referrals to available social services. The program also provides outings to major sporting events and speakers delivering positive prevention messages. Founding Board Chair Adam Luecking reflects: "Community Development Block Grant funding has allowed LBAA the ability to leverage resources and make the relationships necessary to obtain results for low-income and immigrant children of Long Branch. LBAA went from serving 0 to over 300 kids in positive, after school team sports experiences in just three years."

"My involvement with Long Branch Athletic Association as a volunteer coach of my son's basketball team over the past three years has been a tremendous experience. Without LBAA, I would have never had the opportunity, support and encouragement to get involved as a coach. Also, it has strengthened my involvement in the community. I can also see the difference it makes on the kids' lives. They seem more focused on the court and in the classroom as a result of their participation."

—Al Moses

9th Grade Boys Basketball Coach and Board Member



Housing/Homeless Prevention

The high cost of living in Montgomery County, the rapidly increasing cost of housing and the tight rental market, with a vacancy rate of 3.9%⁷, make it difficult for low and moderate income individuals and families to find and maintain housing. Working individuals and families who live paycheck to paycheck have little separating them from homelessness if an unexpected financial emergency occurs. On any given day in Montgomery County, 1250 people, including 325 children, experience homelessness, and 3000 individuals in a given year receive homeless services.⁸ In FY2006 CDBG funding has supported services that have helped people find housing and avoid eviction.

CDBG funding supported a creative partnership between two nonprofits, **Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition** (SSIHC) and **Montgomery Housing Partnership** (MHP). SSIHC provided professional case management and volunteer mentoring support to residents of MHP-owned affordable housing. The story of one resident illustrates how these services help clients build a stronger and more stable future for themselves and their children:

At age 20, Ms. R left her abusive boyfriend and entered the homeless system in Montgomery County with two daughters under age three. Though frightened and alone, Ms. R, with the help of her SSIHC case manager, enrolled in an associate's degree program at Montgomery College and found employment at her daughter's child-care center. Working with her SSIHC case manager, Ms. R also eliminated her debt and began to save money for her move out of MHP housing. Ms. R is now close to earning her certification as an early childhood educator that will earn her an automatic raise at the center. She is preparing to graduate from SSIHC housing with savings in the bank and dreams of home ownership. By using her time in this supported housing to overcome the chaos of domestic abuse and poverty, Ms. R has demonstrated the value of hard work and diligent planning to her young daughters.

Volunteers for the **Shepherd's Table** prepare a meal for the homeless. FY2006 CDBG funding supported the organization, which provides shelter referrals, social service information, clothing, medical services, and counseling services.



Community Ministry of Montgomery County (CMMC) received CDBG funding to provide used household furniture to low-income County residents as part of its **Interfaith Furniture Initiative**. Serving almost 500 families last year, the program solicits household furniture donations and delivers donated furniture free-of-charge. Priority is given to residents of Montgomery County transitioning from homelessness or otherwise referred by County and nonprofit human service agencies.

CMMC staff load furniture bound for the homes of low-income residents. Warren Rosenfeld, Director of Business and Development programs, observes: "Many homes we serve have absolutely no furniture when we arrive; families tell us over and over again how their children are sleeping on the floor before they receive donated beds from us."



Seniors and Persons with Disabilities

The number of persons age 65 and over continues to steadily grow. Currently, about 114,500 seniors live in Montgomery County, 12.3% of the County's overall population.⁹ By 2030, an estimated 16.25% of the County's residents will be 65 or older.¹⁰ There are also approximately 108,000 non-institutionalized people with disabilities.¹¹ Over 16,000 low-income county residents are elderly or have a disability.¹² CDBG funds are used to provide supportive services to this vulnerable population.

Two programs that provide in-home food delivery services to vulnerable residents received CDBG funding in FY2006. **Food & Friends** served individuals diagnosed with life-challenging illnesses to address their basic nutritional needs. The program prepares and delivery nutritious meals and/or groceries as well as providing nutritional education and counseling for individuals who are unable to purchase and prepare nutritional food to manage their illness. The program partners with Holy Cross Homes and Hospice, Hospice Caring, Montgomery County Hospice, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, CASA of Maryland, the National Institutes of Health and local hospitals to recruit and educate potential eligible clients about the availability of services. **Top Banana Home Delivered Groceries** provided in-home grocery delivery services to disabled and elderly and disabled homebound residents. The program takes telephone grocery orders and packs and delivers the items requested, making an average of 35-45 deliveries each week. Drivers even unpack the groceries if needed, loosen jar lids for arthritis sufferers and check on clients' well-being.

The **Senior Connection of Montgomery County** received CDBG funding to operate resource centers at three low-income housing facilities. The centers offer basic computer literacy training and access to volunteer services to assist in basic activities such as grocery shopping, transportation to medical appointments and assorted empowerment training and referral activities.



A Vietnamese resident at a public housing facility for the elderly in Wheaton receives computer coaching at the **Senior Connection's** Senior OnLine computer lab and satellite office.

Immigrant Services

Reflecting a trend in the Washington metropolitan area as a destination for immigrants, Montgomery County has 45% of Maryland's foreign born population.¹³ While approximately 28.4%¹⁴ of the County's population is foreign born, there exists great diversity within this population. International students in Montgomery County Public Schools come from more than 163 countries.¹⁵ Some new immigrants do not have the ability to communicate in English and lack familiarity with American culture, public institutions and community services. This significantly impedes their ability to function and may trap them at the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder. CDBG funds support services to immigrants that help them become successful and contributing members of their new country and achieve the dreams that led them here.

CDBG funds have enabled the **Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center** (APALRC) to provide legal assistance to Asian immigrant workers. Contrary to stereotypes of an affluent and well-assimilated minority group, the Asian American community includes individuals who have critical unmet needs, and language and cultural barriers can prevent many from accessing help. The APALRC provides legal assistance, outreach and education to protect the legal rights of Asian Americans in the workplace. The inset story illustrates APALRC's work.

Community Ministries of Rockville's Latino Outreach Program received CDBG funding for its naturalization program, which provides legal and immigration support services to educate and prepare participants to become US citizens. The program also provides other support services such as English instruction, US citizenship classes, referrals to community-based social services, and childcare/tutoring to enable participants to complete the program.

Mr. T, a Chinese man, quit his job as a cook at a restaurant to take a job at a restaurant closer to home. The first check that he was given as payment for his work bounced. Then, within weeks of his start date, the restaurant closed, and Mr. T's calls to his supervisor went unanswered. APALRC was able to negotiate with the employer to get Mr. T all of his unpaid wages.

APALRC's free multilingual hotline provides legal assistance to the Asian American community. The organization also provides trained legal interpreter services, and more extensive legal advice and representation for work related issues.



Graduates of **Community Ministries of Rockville's Latino Outreach** program received legal and immigration support services to educate and prepare them to become US citizens.

Employment and Economic Development

In the past year, the County's healthy economy experienced accelerated job growth at an increase of 2.1%, with the largest growth in professional and technical services jobs.¹⁶ Despite this positive trend, many low-income, hardworking people still struggle to make ends meet and to realize the benefits from the growing job market. CDBG funding supports training and other services for these low-income workers, giving them a greater chance to achieve self-sufficiency and access to higher paying jobs.



This **Vehicle for Change** client was selected to purchase a low-cost vehicle that will help her family achieve self-sufficiency

Spanish Catholic Center Pre-Apprenticeship trainees visit a construction site as part of their hands-on learning

This past year, the **Housing Opportunities Community Partners** received CDBG monies to help **Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS)** program participants purchase used vehicles for a nominal amount through the **Vehicles for Change** program. The FSS program assists families in public housing or receiving housing choice vouchers to achieve self-sufficiency and end dependency on welfare assistance. These vehicles not only provide needed transportation to access employment opportunities, but also enhance the quality of life for these low-income families by facilitating access to medical appointments, children's after school activities and recreational programs. To make these vehicles affordable, the program leverages services and in-kind support from garages, suppliers, social service agencies, businesses and individuals.

The Spanish Catholic Center's Pre-Apprenticeship Training provides instruction that will place trainees in a paying apprenticeship program. Trainees participate in full-immersion English as a Second Language through a core curriculum that covers craft skills as well as basic communication and employability skills. Occupational Math instruction provides instruction in basic mathematical functions related to construction work. The program also provides hands-on training including Lead Abatement Work, Asbestos Flooring, CPR-First Aid, and Roofing and Electrical classes.



Conclusion

The Community Development Block Grant program is an important source of federal funding to Montgomery County. For more than three decades, CDBG funding has provided local governments with significant and flexible funding that is unavailable from other sources. Strategic public investments in physical improvements have helped stimulate private investment in a number of county neighborhoods. Financing for single-family and apartment renovations has helped complement other County housing activities and been an important part of the County's code enforcement and healthy neighborhood initiatives. CDBG funds also provide critical services for some of the most vulnerable populations in the county through our many caring Nonprofit Partners. Montgomery County is fighting hard in the face of ongoing federal funding cuts to preserve the CDBG program. We will continue to focus our CDBG resources on meeting the priority needs of our low- and moderate-income resident and to work to ensure that the CDBG program is available for county residents for years to come.



Sources and Uses of Federal Funds

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)

\$ 6,991,237

The county expects to receive \$5,891,237 in CDBG funds for Fiscal Year 2006, and with anticipated program income of \$1,100,000, an estimated total of \$6,991,237 in CDBG funds will be available for the following activities. Combined administrative and planning expenses described below represent 20.0% of the total amount available; this is just at the federally-mandated cap. Eligible public service projects represent 12.3% of this amount; this percentage is below the federally-mandated cap of 15%.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS

Fenton Street Village Revitalization

\$ 180,000

This project provides funds for public improvements, streetscaping, and utility adjustments along Fenton Street from Wayne Avenue to Sligo Avenue in Silver Spring.

Fenton Street Village Pedestrian Linkages

\$ 190,000

This project provides funds for landscaped pedestrian links in Fenton Street Village that will improve connections between existing businesses and parking.

South Silver Spring Pedestrian Linkages

\$ 735,000

This project provides funds for landscaped pedestrian links through large, awkwardly-shaped blocks in South Silver Spring that will improve connections between existing businesses, parking, and Montgomery College and planned, new commercial and housing development.

Long Branch Village Center

\$ 300,000

This project is a multi-faceted effort to establish a more vital and cohesive small downtown, including pedestrian links to the existing retail establishments, the library, the recreation center, apartment communities, and the Long Branch Stream Valley Park. The project also includes new commercial development, refurbishing existing buildings and infrastructure, pedestrian safety enhancements, broadening the range of stores and services, organizing the retail business community, and creating jobs through both new development and expanding existing businesses.

Facility Planning

\$ 50,000

A total of \$50,000 will be used to conduct an analysis of older residential areas in need of revitalization.

PROJECTS ADMINISTERED BY COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Department of Housing and Community Affairs (DHCA)

Commercial Facade Improvement Program

\$ 150,000

A total of \$150,000 will be used to improve commercial buildings and to share the cost of new signs and canopies, and for loans to owners of older commercial properties in targeted areas to make needed improvements.

Comprehensive Neighborhood Assistance

\$ 170,000

A total of \$170,000 will fund improvements in conjunction with other public and private initiatives in older, moderate-income neighborhoods to improve the quality of life and address residents' concerns. Efforts will focus on transportation, recreation, safety, and other activities that support broad neighborhood improvement strategies that are eligible for CDBG funding.

Demolition

\$ 10,000

A total of \$10,000 will be used to demolish condemned structures in the county.

Group Home Acquisition and Rehabilitation**\$ 350,000**

A total of \$350,000 will continue a program providing loans to purchase properties by nonprofit organizations for use as group homes, and to provide rehabilitation and accessibility improvements for nonprofit group homes.

Housing Rehabilitation and Production**\$1,605,487**

A total of \$1,605,487 will fund the County's ongoing rehabilitation program to enable low and moderate income owners of single family homes and owners of multi-family properties occupied by low- and moderate-income tenants to eliminate code violations and make other necessary improvements, including energy conservation improvements. Some funds may also be used as financing to produce or preserve affordable housing in the county. This program is an important tool in stabilizing our older neighborhoods and preserving existing affordable housing.

Public Housing Modernization**\$ 540,000**

A total of \$540,000 will be used for grants to the Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) that will fund improvements to the County's aging public housing stock.

Project Analysis and Engineering**\$ 100,000**

A total of \$100,000 will be used for project analysis and engineering studies associated with projects in revitalization areas.

NONPROFIT PROVIDERS**Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center****\$ 29,000****"Legal Assistance for Asian Workers"**

A total of \$29,000 in second year funding will be used to offer direct legal services to Asian immigrant workers to educate them about their rights, help them overcome language and cultural barriers, and protect them from discrimination. An estimated 50 people will benefit.

Boat People S.O.S.**\$ 5,000****"Road to Independence Through Education and Savings"**

A total of \$5,000 in second year funding will be used for a community economic development partnership between BPSOS and Citibank that includes a community outreach/education initiative, and a community asset building component that includes individual development accounts (IDAs). An estimated 11 people will benefit.

Carribean Help Center, Inc.**\$ 29,000****"Education – Employment and Public Services"**

A total of \$29,000 in first year funding will be used for a multi-faceted program offering various education/employment training and readiness programs, and social service referrals to enable people to become more self-sufficient. An estimated 750 people will benefit.

CASA of Maryland, Inc.**\$ 10,000****"Direct Services Program – Social Services"**

A total of \$10,000 in first year funding will be used for a program offering direct social services, such as emergency and supplemental food, life skills workshops, immigration assistance, translation, senior transportation, and a legal rights program to immigrants, many of whom do not speak English. An estimated 550 people will benefit.

Community Bridges**\$ 23,000****"Jump Start Girls/Adelante Niñas Summer Outdoor Adventure Camp"**

A total of \$23,000 in second year funding will be used to provide an outdoor recreational summer camp for elementary school aged girls who are underserved by existing programs. An estimated 37 children will benefit.

Community Ministry of Montgomery County**\$ 15,000****"Interfaith Furniture Initiative"**

A total of \$15,000 in second year funding will be used to deliver good, used donated household furniture to low-income county residents to help them maintain self-sufficiency. An estimated 2,400 people will benefit.

Community Ministry of Montgomery County**\$ 20,000****"Micro-Enterprise Program"**

A total of \$20,000 in first year funding will be used for a program to offer technical assistance, mentoring, and low-cost loans to micro entrepreneurs from the county's low-income community. An estimated 18 people will benefit.

DHHS/Public Health Services	\$ 37,400
“Addressing Cancer Health Disparities”	
A total of \$37,400 in first year funding will be used for a program to offer cancer screening and preventive services to low income and/or uninsured/underinsured county residents. Approximately 260 people will benefit.	
Easter Seals Society	\$ 35,000
“Easter Seals Family Friend Program”	
A total of \$35,000 in first year funding will be used for a program under which senior volunteers offer supportive services to families of children with developmental disabilities, focusing on low-income disadvantaged families traditionally underserved by support services. An estimated 150 people will benefit.	
Family Learning Solutions, Inc.	\$ 20,000
“Kids in Biz”	
A total of \$20,000 in first year funding will be used for a career development and workforce skills development program for youth who reside in the Rosemary Hills area of Silver Spring under which they design and operate their own business. This project is proposed to benefit approximately 25 youth.	
Family Services Agency, Inc.	\$ 20,000
“Healthy Families Montgomery Creative Outreach Program”	
A total of \$20,000 in third and final year funding will be used to provide an outreach program that offers prenatal assessment, resources, referrals and support to 250 low- and moderate-income families.	
Family Services Agency, Inc.	\$ 20,000
“Connect for Success”	
A total of \$20,000 in third and final year funding will be used to provide consultation, observation, and training to childcare programs in the County in order to identify and address emotional, behavioral, and other developmental concerns in infants, toddlers, and children. An estimated 225 people will benefit.	
Food and Friends	\$ 25,000
“Helping Low-Income Persons with Life Threatening Illnesses”	
A total of \$25,000 in third and final year funding will be used for a program that prepares, packages, and delivers meals and groceries to people living with cancer, AIDS, or other life-threatening illnesses. An estimated 50 people will benefit.	
Gapbuster Learning Center	\$ 22,500
“Enrichment Program”	
A total of \$22,500 in third and final year funding will be used for a math and reading enrichment program serving students in grades K through 8 aimed at promoting higher levels of achievement and closing the performance gap of Montgomery County students. An estimated 95 youths will benefit.	
Housing and Community Initiatives, Inc.	\$ 15,000
“Bilingual Housing Counseling/Housing Education Program”	
A total of \$15,000 in first year funds will be used for a program to offer bilingual pre-and post-settlement homeownership counseling and education courses for clients seeking first-time homeownership and long-term sustainability of homeownership. An estimated 80 people will benefit.	
Housing Opportunities Community Partners	\$ 20,000
“Vehicles for Change”	
A total of \$20,000 in third and final year funding will be used for a program to help families residing in HOC housing to obtain cars in order to help them achieve economic independence and self-sufficiency. It is estimated that 36 families will benefit.	
Korean Community Service Center	\$ 15,000
“Life Skills for Economic Independence”	
A total of \$15,000 in first year funding will be used for a project to help immigrants achieve economic independence by giving them information on existing support resources and offering life skills classes that focus on self sufficiency. This project is expected to benefit approximately 165 people.	

Long Branch Athletic Association “Long Branch Athletic Association” A total of \$23,000 in second year funding will be used for a structured athletic program for youth in Long Branch to provide supervision and constructive alternative out-of-school activities in order to build self-confidence and social skills. An estimated 175 youth will benefit.	\$ 23,000
Luther Rice Neighborhood Center “After School Program” A total of \$14,500 in second year funding will be used for a program offering homework assistance, a computer lab, sports activities, indoor games, snacks, and mentoring for children in Forest Knolls elementary school. The program is expected to serve 30 children.	\$ 14,500
Montgomery Avenue Women’s Shelter “Montgomery Avenue Women’s Shelter” A total of \$9,200 in first year funding will be used to offer a computer room to homeless women at an overnight shelter to assist them in locating jobs and housing, and to assist their case managers with locating resources for their clients. An estimated 150 people will benefit	\$ 9,200
Montgomery Volunteer Dental Clinic “Expansion of New Up-County Dental Clinic” A total of \$25,000 in second year funding will be used to establish a satellite dental office to provide basic dental care to low-income adults who lack dental insurance. An estimated 400 people will benefit.	\$ 25,000
Ministries United Silver Spring Takoma Park (MUSST) “Community Health” A total of \$26,600 in first year funding will be used for a program to offer financial assistance to eligible clients to help them purchase prescriptions and obtain physical exams, and to help them apply to the state for subsidies to purchase medications. The project will serve an estimated 120 people.	\$ 26,600
Passion for Learning, Inc. “Passion for Learning” A total of \$45,000 in first year funding will be used for a program to improve academic achievement of at-risk public school students by identifying volunteers from businesses and the community who will form partnerships with the schools and the students. The project is expected to serve 250 students.	\$ 45,000
Senior Connection of Montgomery County “Satellite Offices of the Senior Connection” A total of \$22,500 in second year funds will be used to establish three satellite offices that will allow the grantee to better serve the needs of low-income seniors living in Arcola Towers, Elizabeth House, and Holly Hall apartment communities. An additional 300 people are expected to benefit.	\$ 22,500
Silver Spring Interfaith Housing Coalition “SSHIC-Montgomery Housing Partnership Program” A total of \$20,000 in third and final year funding will be used to fund a partnership with Montgomery Housing Partnership (MHP) in which SSHIC's staff will provide intensive case management and support services to formerly homeless families now living in 4 of MHP's apartment communities. The project will benefit approximately 20 families.	\$ 20,000
Spanish Catholic Center “Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program” A total of \$38,000 in second year funding will be used to provide a program to offer pre-apprenticeship training with English as a Second Language and Occupational Math instruction sufficient to pass an entrance exam into one of the construction-related trades. A total of 25 people will benefit.	\$ 38,000
The Shepherd’s Table “Counseling for Spanish-Speaking Homeless” A total of \$9,550 in second year funding (\$9,550 in CDBG funding and \$13,250 in ESG funding) will be used to provide counseling, group activities, outreach, and other support services to Spanish-speaking persons who are homeless and/or who have special needs. A total of 100 people will benefit.	\$ 9,550

Stanford American Education Foundation	\$ 15,000
“Education and Training Center – Adult Empowerment Program”	
A total of \$15,000 in first year funds will be used for a comprehensive adult training program for low income and immigrant residents of the Rock Creek Terrace Apartments and surrounding areas, including computer training, ESOL, GED preparation, and parenting skills. An estimated 50 people will benefit.	
Top Banana Home Delivered Groceries	\$ 10,000
“Home Delivered Groceries for Elderly, Disabled, and Low-Income Persons”	
A total of \$10,000 in second year CDBG funding will be used to deliver of a full range of grocery store products to homebound elderly persons and persons with disabilities, as well as free food to eligible residents through a partnership with Manna Food Bank. A total of 60 people will benefit.	
Washington Youth Foundation, Inc.	\$ 22,500
“Youth Initiative Project”	
A total of \$22,500 in first year funding will be used to provide an after-school education program, weekend school education, and family counseling to students and their families. A total of 235 people will benefit.	

PROJECTS ADMINISTERED BY MUNICIPALITIES

CITY OF TAKOMA PARK	\$ 167,000
Hearts and Homes for Youth	\$ 7,050
“Helen Smith Girls Home”	
A total of \$7,050 will be used by the grantee to provide an after school enrichment and mentoring program for female youths residing in the Helen Smith Girls Home in Takoma Park. A total of 15 youth are expected to benefit.	
Takoma Park Police Department	\$ 9,000
“C-SAFET”	
A total of \$9,000 will be used by the city’s Police Department to implement a community-based crime prevention initiative to reduce crime and the fear of crime in the community. A total of 8,000 people are expected to benefit.	
Capacity Building Program	\$ 9,000
A total of \$9,000 will be used by the City to employ outreach activities targeting low- and moderate-income residents to increase their knowledge of home ownership opportunities, or if they are not interested in purchasing a home, to handle issues with rental properties through the operation of a tenants’ association.	
Street Enhancement Projects	\$141,950
A total of \$141,950 will be used by the City of Takoma Park to provide street improvements, primarily on Oswego Avenue, to include resurfacing with pedestrian safety pavement markings, installing ADA corner ramps, curbs, gutters, and new traffic calming devices to increase pedestrian safety. It will serve approximately 1,000 low- and moderate-income city residents.	
CITY OF ROCKVILLE	\$ 380,000
Mobile Medical Care, Inc.	\$ 12,000
“Mobile Health Care”	
A total of \$12,000 will be used to provide medical care to working poor, homeless, uninsured, and underinsured persons using a mobile medical van. The services will be offered out of two community centers, and will benefit approximately 100 persons.	
Community Ministries of Rockville	\$ 20,000
“Latino Outreach Program”	
A total of \$20,000 will be used to empower foreign born community members in Rockville and surrounding areas by helping them become U.S. citizens through the naturalization component of the Latino Outreach Program. This service will assist approximately 150 individuals.	
Community Ministries of Rockville	\$ 12,500
“Safe and Habitable Homes”	
A total of \$12,500 will be used to allow low- and moderate-income seniors to remain safely and comfortably in their homes by providing code related repairs and minor structural modifications to improve accessibility. This service will be able to assist approximately 35 individuals.	

Rockville Housing Enterprises**\$ 104,500**

A total of \$104,500 will be used by Rockville Housing Enterprises for a resident counselor, as well as for scattered site repairs to roofs and gutters, siding, basement tiles and ceilings, and for scattered tree trimming and removal. The counselor will benefit approximately 120 families, while the physical improvements will benefit an estimated 14 families.

Top Banana Home Delivered Groceries**\$ 5,000**

“Home Delivered Groceries for Elderly, Disabled, and Low-Income Persons” A total of \$5,000 used to provide home delivered groceries to persons who are homebound, specifically the elderly and people with disabilities. A total of 20 people will benefit.

Single-Family Rehabilitation**\$ 150,000**

A total of \$150,000 will be used to provide low-interest loans and grants to income eligible homeowners who need financial assistance in eliminating major code violations, and to correct drainage problems on private property in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. An estimated 15 families will benefit.

CDBG Administration**\$ 76,000**

A total of \$76,000 will provide staff support and administration for the city's CDBG projects.

CONTINGENCY**\$ 150,000**

A total of \$100,000 will be available for both capital (\$50,000) and operating (\$100,000) expenditures to allow for emergency community development needs, including setting aside funds for ongoing CDBG projects which may require additional funding, and funding non-public service out-of-cycle requests.

ADMINISTRATION**\$ 1,272,000**

A total of \$1,272,000 will fund DHCA's staff in planning, administration and monitoring of the CDBG program, including application review and staff support for a citizen's advisory committee, environmental reviews, contract preparation, payment processing and auditing, federal reporting and loan servicing.

END NOTES

1. MRIS, STAR reports as reported by Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning, Research and Technology Center.
2. Ibid.
3. Rental Vacancy Report, Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs, August 2006.
4. Strategic Plan 2006–2011, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services.
5. About Us, Montgomery County Public Schools, July 21, 2006 <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/about/>.
6. MCPS Schools at a Glance 2005–2006, Montgomery County Public Schools, August 4, 2006 <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/departments/regulatoryaccountability/glance/currentyear/Glance2006.pdf>.
7. Rental Vacancy Report, Montgomery County Department of Housing and Community Affairs, August 2006.
8. Homelessness in Montgomery County: Beginning to End, Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless.
9. Montgomery At a Glance, Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning, Research and Technology Center, February 2005.
10. Montgomery County Round 7.0 Forecast of Population Living in Households by Age, Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning, Research and Technology Center, July 2005.
11. Commission on People with Disabilities Annual Report, November 1st, 2005.
12. Census 2000 as reported by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, Aging and Disability Services.
13. Montgomery At a Glance, Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning, Research and Technology Center, February 2005.
14. 2003 American Community Survey as reported by The Face of Poverty in Montgomery County MD, Montgomery County Community Action Board, April 2005.
15. About Us, Montgomery County Public Schools, July 21, 2006 <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/about/>.
16. Economic Forces that Shape Montgomery County 2006 Annual Update, Montgomery County Department of Park and Planning, Research and Technology Center, May 2006.



**Montgomery County, Maryland
Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG)**